

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

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R 210900Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2975

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 1848

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, KS, VS

SUBJECT: BIO DATA ON KIM YONG-KWAN

1. ROKG FEBRUARY 26 APPOINTED RETIRED ADMIRAL KIM YONG-KWAN
NEW ROK AMBASSADOR TO VIETNAM.

2. AMBASSADOR KIM WAS BORN IN KANGWON PROVINCE, KOREA, IN
1925, AND RECEIVED HIS SECONDARY EDUCATION IN TOKYO. HE
JOINED THE ROK NAVY IN 1946 AND GRADUATED FROM THE ROK
NAVAL ACADEMY THE FOLLOWING YEAR. AS A LIEUTENANT
COMMANDER IN THE KOREAN WAR HE COMMANDED THE PUSAN NAVAL
STATION AND ALSO SAW ACTION IN SEVERAL NAVAL CAMPAIGNS.
FOLLOWING THE WAR HE HELD A NUMBER OF STAFF ASSIGNMENTS
AND IN 1960 WAS PROMOTED TO COMMODORE AND APPOINTED
PRESIDENT OF THE ROK NAVAL COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE.
AFTER THE COUP OF 1961, KIM WAS MADE MILITARY GOVERNOR
OF CHEJU PROVINCE. IN 1963 HE RESUMED HIS NAVAL CAREER,
WHICH CULMINATED IN HIS 1966-1969 TOUR AS ROK CHIEF OF
NAVAL OPERATIONS. HE RETIRED AS A FULL ADMIRAL IN 1969
AND BECAME PRESIDENT OF THE YONGNAM CHEMICAL COMPANY.

3. AMBASSADOR KIM SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH AND HAS LONG HAD
EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH AMERICANS. HE STUDIED AT THE
U.S. NAVY POST-GRADUATE SCHOOL IN MONTEREY IN 1956. DURING
THE KOREAN WAR HE WAS FOR AWHILE A ROK LIAISON OFFICER WITH
THE UN FLEET. KIM ALSO HAS CLOSE TIES TO VIETNAM, WHICH
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HE VISITED SEVERAL TIMES WHILE HE WAS CNO, DURING THE

PERIOD OF ROK MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM. HE WAS
AWARDED THE NATIONAL SECURITY MEDAL BY THE GVN. A GOLFER,
KIM IS MARRIED AND HAS FIVE CHILDREN.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COURTESIES EMBASSY SAIGON MIGHT
EXTEND TO AMBASSADOR KIM.
HABIB

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